

SELECT PROPER PLANTS

Selecting proper plants means choosing plants that are compatible with the local environment, planting site and design.

Environmental factors to consider when selecting plants for your landscape are the amount of sunlight, annual precipitation, temperature fluctuations, soil structure and nutrients. Selecting plants whose needs match those to the environment will insure their ultimate health and vigor.

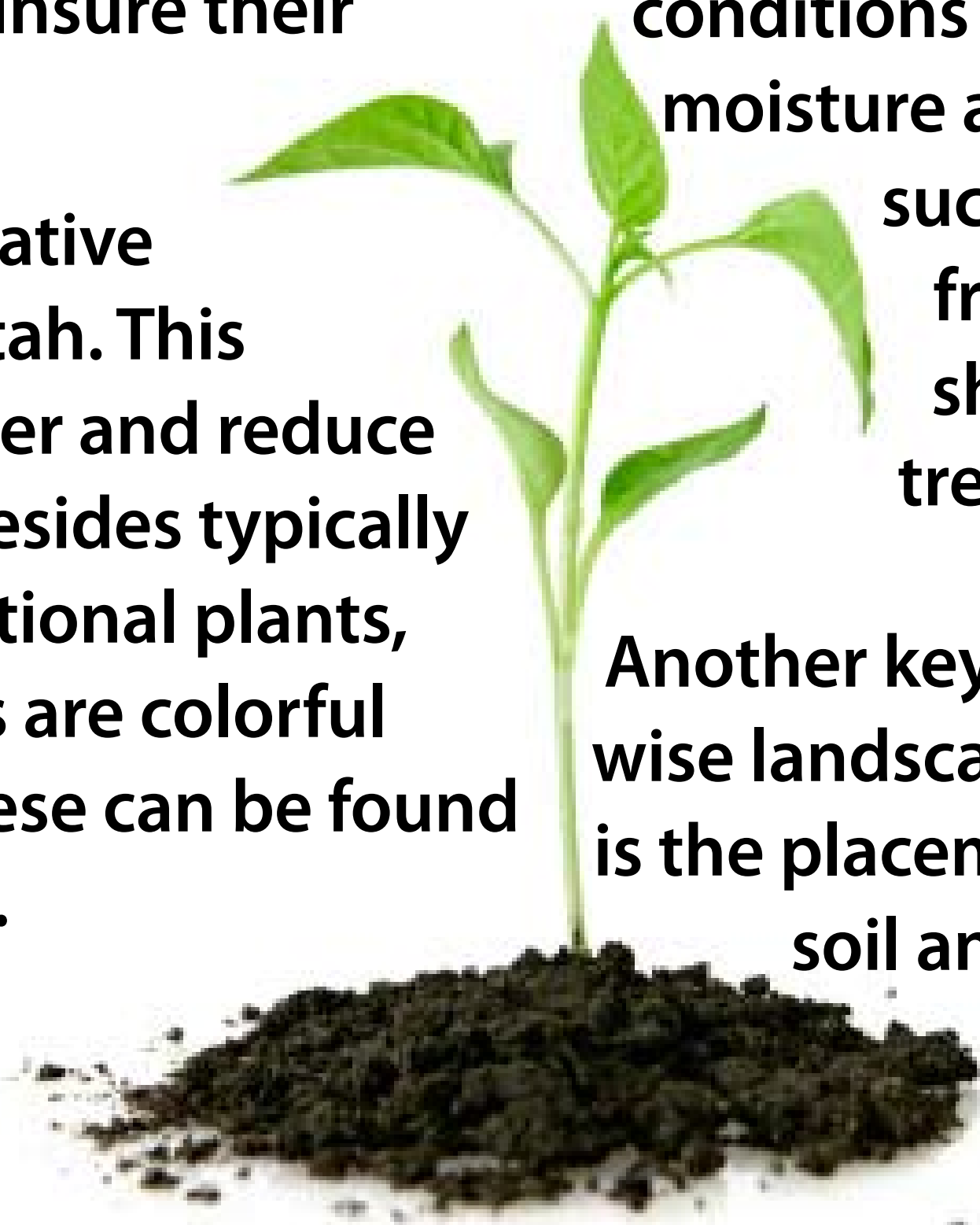
Ideally, select plants that are native or adapted to the climate in Utah. This selection process will save water and reduce time spent on maintenance. Besides typically requiring less water than traditional plants, many native or adapted plants are colorful and attractive. Examples of these can be found throughout Sego Lily Gardens.

Drought tolerance is an important characteristic of

plants in a water-wise landscape, but it should not be the only criteria used when selecting plants. For example, junipers are extremely drought tolerant, and they can't tolerate heavy shade or wet soils.

A key principle of water-wise landscaping is selecting plants that are appropriate for your landscape with its various microclimates and conditions that affect the temperature, moisture and sunlight. Pay attention to such things as the heat generated from buildings or pavement, and shade from structures, fences or trees.

Another key principle of creating a water-wise landscape is **hydrozoning**. Hydrozoning is the placement of plants with similar light, soil and water needs together so that the plants will thrive. Simply put, plant similar plants together.



MATURE SIZE AND FORM

- Will the plant compete with other plants for water, space or nutrients?
- Will it remain in scale with the rest of the landscape as it matures?
- How often will I need to prune this plant?

GROWTH RATE

- Is it slow or fast growing?

TEXTURE

- What type of leaf texture does it have?
- Does it combine well with the adjacent plants?

COLOR

- Is the foliage or flower color compatible with other plants or the structures it is planted near?
- Have I selected a variety of plants to be placed throughout the landscape that will bloom at different times to allow for year-round color?

FUNCTIONAL USE

- Is the plant suitable for the intended purpose?
- Is the plant suitable for the location?

PLANT NEEDS

- Is the plant adapted to Utah's climate?
- Will the intended location meet the plant's soil, light and water requirements?

Water-Saving Tips for Plants

- A dry **soil surface** is not a true indicator of water need since the surface always dries out first. Soil should be dry and crumbly before watering. Use a soil moisture meter, soil probe, screwdriver or trowel to check the soil moisture level.
- **Plant in the fall or spring** so that plants can develop a vigorous root system before the heat of summer.
- **During dry months**, water plants only enough for survival and not to create lush growth.
- Be flexible when determining the watering schedule.
- **To encourage deep roots** and to **prevent run-off**, build a water basin around the base of newly established plants and water deeply.
- Use plants **adapted to Utah's climate** because they don't need as much water as imported species.



A WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROJECT